

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05208 081801 Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 IO-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CCO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OPR-02 M-03

A-01 OC-06 SY-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /147 W

----- 006644

Z O 081734 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2000

DIA WASHDC FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5208

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY SITREP 5

1. AT 1600 Z LEBANESE ARMY UNITS ESTIMATED AT BATTALION STRENGTH
ATTACKED SABRA AND CHATILA CAMPS WITH AIR SUPPORT. BY 1900 Z
ARMY HAD REPORTEDLY TAKEN HIGH GROUND AND KEY BUILDINGS DOMINATING
ENTIRE AREA WHICH WERE ITS OBJECTIVES. ACCORDING TO UNTSO
OBSERVER WHO COULD SEE OPERATION FROM UNTSO BUILDING OPERATION
WAS TEXTBOOK CLASSIC IN SURPRISE AND EXECUTION. ARMY SAYS THAT
CASUALTIES NOT HEAVY ON EITHER SIDE.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05208 081801 Z

2. AT 1645 Z PRESIDENT FRANGIE ANNOUNCED, AFTER MEETING WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS, THAT THERE WOULD BE THIRTY- MINUTE UNILATERAL CEASE- FIRE FROM 1700 Z UNTIL 1730 Z TO SEE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE WITH FEDAYEEN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASSAULT WAS ORDERED AFTER FEDAYEEN FAILED COMPLY WITH EARLIER GOL ULTIMATUM ABOUT CEASE- FIRE AND SURRENDER OF ARMS IN CERTAIN AREAS.

3. TONY FRANGIE INFORMED EMBOFF AT 1700 Z THAT WHAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE REGULAR SYRIAN TROOPS HAVE CROSSED BORDER IN BEKAA AND THAT IT IS FEARED THERE WILL ALSO BE ATTACKS IN NORTH LEBANON. HE DID NOT HAVE FIGURES AND WE WILL CHECK FURTHER. TONE OF RADIO DAMASCUS HAS BEEN VARIOUS THROUGHOUT AFTERNOON.

4. WE ARE INFORMED BY UNTSO THAT THERE IS HEAVY FIGHTING IN TYRE AND THERE IS ALSO FIGHTING NEAR LEBANESE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

5. COMMENT: MOST OF OUR CONTACTS ARE TIED UP OPERATIONALLY BUT SITUATION GIVES EVERY APPEARANCE OF ALL- OUT SHOWDOWN WHICH HAS BEEN FOR SO LONG ON HORIZON. SYRIAN THREAT IS ESPECIALLY OMINOUS. IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN TELL GOL SHOULD WE BE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE?
HOUGHTON

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PINS, LE
To: AMMAN
DHAHRAN
DIA WASHDC
JERUSALEM
JIDDA
LONDON
MOSCOW

NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

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